

September 20, 2003

RE: Petition for Rulemaking RM-10787

I support the expedited removal of the Element 1 as a requirement for all levels of the Amateur Radio Service. Morse code is a mode of choice, rather than a required use mode for Amateur hobbyists; as such this Element is a discouragement to those hobbyists that do not have an interest in Morse code.

During the past couple of decades there have been many modes and methods of operation developed that were not in existence when the Element 1 requirement was put in place. The removal of the Morse requirement does not mean the death of CW but merely allows those who wish to use a different mode of operation to participate in this hobby. Those who wish to learn and use Morse code are still capable of doing so while others, like myself, that are most interested in Packet, PSK31, MFSK and RTTY can pursue our interests within the Amateur Radio hobby.

Additionally, as a team leader for the Bellevue Eastside Amateur Radio Support group, which assists the Bellevue Fire Department and other emergency response agencies; it is vitally important to me to have as many team members who have the capability to use the HF bands using the modes of their choice. By their own choice they develop their skills that can be of use to the agencies being served; if their interest lies elsewhere than CW, they may not attain the capabilities and expertise in the high frequency bands that are needed due to being unable to practice in those bands..

For these reasons I request that the Element 1 test be removed and that the other Elements be retained as they currently are.

Respectively submitted,

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Life Member, American Radio Relay League